

Château Troplong Mondot 2012

CSPC# 753466

750mlx12

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006.

Website

<http://www.chateau-troplong-mondot.com/eng/Actu.asp?NumCat=1>

General Info

Château Troplong Mondot is a St. Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé property that has in the last decade been producing wines that are the equal of many 1er Grand Cru Classé estates. Its handsome château dates back to 1745 and Troplong-Mondot was originally part of one sizeable domaine which included the vineyards of Château Pavie.

In the 17th century, the vineyard belonged to the Abbé Raymond de Sèze, who built the chateau as it stands today in 1745. The Sèze family was one of the most prestigious of the Bordeaux area's landed gentry and owned many other estates. It was particularly illustrious in providing Louis XVI with his personal lawyer, Raymond de Sèze. Under the aegis of the Abbé, Mondot won its place among the best Saint Emilion wines.

In 1850, Raymond Troplong took over Mondot and turned it into the 33-hectares estate, unchanged to this very day. A peer, a famous jurist and a lover of art and literature, he became president of the Senate in 1852 and held this office until his death in 1869. In spite of his state duties, he operated the rich Mondot estate with remarkable success, producing a highly prized wine classed by the renowned *Annuaire des Châteaux de Férêt* as Saint-Emilion's second finest wine in 1868. Edouard Troplong, his nephew and successor, added the name Troplong to the estate before he sold it.

The château entered the modern age with the Valette family. Alexandre Valette, a Parisian vintner, bought the estate crafted by Raymond Troplong. He already owned Château La France in Fronsac and would soon acquire Château Pavie. In 1980 Alexandre's great grand daughter, Christine, took over the estate and was joined, 10 years later, by her husband, Xavier Pariente. Together they continued to improve and embellish the vineyard, cellar and chateau. This hard work and their efforts proved worthwhile when in 2006 Troplong Mondot was awarded 1er Grand Cru Classé status. Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant at Troplong Mondot since the mid 1980s.

Vintage

In Bordeaux, September and October 2012 have offered a magnificent Indian summer, both hot and dry. The harvest took place under perfect weather conditions. The skins were thick and rich in mature phenolic compounds. The concentration in sugar, and the phenolic richness are comparable, even superior to those of the 2005 vintage. The harvest conditions were idyllic, with perfectly healthy grapes. Everything was set for this vintage to be an exceptional one with high quality and elegance. According to James Suckling, the 2012 vintage in Bordeaux is one of those which will not cease to impress, surprise and amaze us.

Vineyards

Troplong Mondot has 30 hectares of vineyards well-sited alongside the hill of Mondot to the north-east of the St-Emilion appellation. The soils are rich in limestone clay and are planted with Merlot (90%), Cabernet Franc (5%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). Yields 41 hl/ha.

Harvest

October 9-23

Maturation

The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (75% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant and persistent nose with dark berries, blackberries, blackcurrants and hints of ripe plums, toasted flavours. On



the palate opulent and elegant with good structure, weight and convincing length. A very high-level elegant wine

Production
Cellaring
Scores/Awards

6,250 cases made

Drink 2015-2040

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2013

91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013

16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013

17.5 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013

91 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013

92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013

94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015

93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013

93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 10, 2013

13.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2013

88-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2013

92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013

14-15 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2013

91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews

"Offers a solid, if slightly chunky, feel, with ganache and charcoal notes coating the core of dark currant preserves, fig paste and warmed plum fruit. Shows lots of smoldering tobacco accents on the finish. Pretty grippy for the vintage, but this is headed in a promising direction. Cellar for maximum effect. Best from 2018 through 2025. 6,250 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Well-toasted, with coffee and ganache notes coating the core of crushed plum and blackberry fruit. Keeps a hefty feel through the finish, with the ganache edge dominating. Lacks the taut feel of the vintage, pulling off the powerful style with aplomb. Score range: 91-94"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2012 is another truly great wine from Troplong Mondot. It's always sentimental to taste this wine, realizing that proprietress Christine Valette (the larger-than-life heart and soul behind this estate) has passed away. She was one of the bright, shining stars of Bordeaux. Nevertheless, her legacy is certainly well-established, and the quality of this wine is beyond reproach. Inky bluish purple, its great notes of cassis, blackberry, licorice are followed by a full-bodied, opulently textured wine with stunning concentration, purity and overall balance. It should drink well for 20-25 years and turn out to be one of the great superstars of 2012. Their 63-acre vineyard was cropped at 31 hectoliters per hectare, producing a final blend of 90% Merlot and 10 Cabernet Sauvignon that achieved 14.2% alcohol."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"One of the superstars of the vintage, it boasts an inky/purple color as well as abundant notes of blueberry liqueur, graphite, truffles, acacia flowers and subtle toast. Full-bodied, opulent and already easy to drink, this large-scaled wine possesses high levels of tannin, but they are relatively well-concealed by the extravagant fruit, glycerin, texture and density of this compelling Troplong Mondot. This impressive wine may shut down after bottling and require 4-5 years of cellaring. It has the potential to last at least 15-20 years. Bravo! From a 63-acre vineyard on the high plateau (called the Plateau of Mondot) adjacent to the famous limestone hillside, the Cote Pavie, the 2012 Troplong Mondot is another fabulous success. Cropped at 31 hectoliters per hectare with malolactic in barrel, this blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon hit 14.2% natural alcohol. Three-

fourths of the production went into the grand vin.

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Grand Vin is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 9th and 23rd October. It has a very intense bouquet with lifted aromas of macerated dark cherries, blueberry jam and confit aromas. The palate is full-bodied with sumptuous black fruit, dense tannins but in my opinion, better balance than the 2010 and 2011. The alcohol is lower here, hovering around the high 13 percent mark, which render a better Troplong, whilst the citric edge keeps everything focused. This is a very fine Saint Emilion. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is concentrated and impressive for the vintage with beautiful ripe fruit, minerals, chocolate and light-coffee character. Full body, polished tannins and a long finish. Better in 2018"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Rich and powerful yet velvety with polished tannins and a long finish. Full and impressive. Remains fresh despite slightly elevated alcohol."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"91-93. Barrel sample. While initially tough and almost too extracted, this firm, dark wine has intense density and spice from new wood. As it opens on the palate, slowly hints of juicy black-currant fruit and acidity comes through."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(90% merlot and 10% cabernet sauvignon; 14.3% alcohol; 31 hectoliters per hectare; roughly 75% of the total production went into the grand vin): Inky purple. Ripe aromas of cassis, stewed plum, dark cocoa, coffee and fresh herbs on the showy nose. On the palate, more ripe dark fruit and chocolate flavors are complicated by vanilla and coffee notes. This very powerful wine comes across as rich and velvety and finishes with a trace of alcoholic heat. It will be appreciated more by fans of high-pH, internationally styled wines than by Bordeaux classicists."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Black as black. Intense, spiky fruit like elderberries. Intense, very ripe, a bit brash though the tannins are fully rounded. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"One of the deepest colours. Rich, ripe and intense on the nose. Suave and plush on the palate. Powerful but finely etched tannins. Modern but within bounds."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Even darker, what have they done with the anthocyanins over here that they couldn't manage on the Left Bank?! That lush violet, damson jam nose, seems like extremely ripe fruit and new vanilla oak. Very plush, very opulent, deep extraction but does seem to just err on the side of controlled, quite sweet, perhaps a little too high pH, and there is ethanol on the nose, can feel a little heat. But can't say this is not successful, it is a good expression of a modern Saint Emilion style, probably needs a good eight years before drinking. Finishes with a touch bitter chocolate. Not one I would buy personally, but it has its niche, would be a good dinner party bottle. 91 / 17.5. Highly recommended (under caution of knowing the style you are buying). Drink 2018-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"The super-charged, super-concentrated wines of Troplong Mondot aren't to everyone's taste, but there's no denying their quality. Densely coloured and slightly cakey, this has masses of dark fruits and oak, a big tannic frame and a touch of over-ripeness. Fans will love it, detractors won't. Drink: 2020-30"

- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"This would be an outstanding wine in any vintage, but in 2012, it's quite an accomplishment to produce a wine with this much richness, layers of sweet, supple, sensuous ripe fruits and silky, velvety tannins. The hedonistic finish really carries through with waves of perfectly ripe, dark berries and chocolate. This showed great as a barrel sample and it was even better when tasted in bottle, which is always a good sign for future development."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"From a blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine will come in at close to 14.5% alcohol. Dark in color with licorice, jam, earth, dark chocolate, coffee and smoke aromas open to a silky, plush, polished, rich-textured wine filled with sweet, jammy blackberries, dark chocolate and black raspberry. Thick, lush and rich, this is a wine for hedonists. 93-95 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Very dense and deep looking; very lush and unctuous nose but quite pure; layered and extremely plush; palate very full with lots of extract and all the oak soaked up here. Very big and fat but there is some freshness too which means the wine can do up its belt. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. 93-95+ UGC Wednesday April 10, 2013"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The mix of black and red fruits gives a nice complex feel on the nose with ripe blackcurrant giving some fleshy richness on the palate. The back palate feels fresher and although the tannins are there supporting the fruit the finish is sweet and ripe. 2017-26"
- Derek Smedley MW

"Since the late 1980's Christine Valette has consistently produced dense blockbuster Saint Emilions here. 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, malolactic fermentation and elevage all in new oak. A saturated black colour with a port-like nose. Hot, spicity, with notes of coconut and banana. This tastes like a tannic rum punch. Absolutely massive on the palate with gobs of mouth-coating tannins. Extremely extracted with liquorice intensity. Really over the top for most of us. Hard to love this monster."
- Farr Vintners

"Amazing concentration and depth in this vintage with plush velvety tannins and great depth of flavours - plums, ripe blackberries, hint of cocoa. Dense and somewhat modern in style with firm tannins and the potential to age for many years. Surprising depth and concentration for the vintage. Tasted twice, this wine showed well both times. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (07-Apr-2013)"
- JCL, asianpalate.com
